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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ACTION ITEM
BOARD MEMBER INITIATIVE**

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED BROADBAND AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE CITIZENS, BUSINESSES, AND WORKFORCE OF LOUDOUN COUNTY

ELECTION DISTRICT: Countywide

CRITICAL ACTION DATE: March 6, 2012

STAFF CONTACT: Juanita Tool, Staff Aide to Supervisor Clarke

RECOMMENDATIONS: Supervisors Clarke and Higgins recommend Board approval of this item

BACKGROUND:

Many parts of Loudoun County, particularly Western Loudoun, are lacking in communications infrastructure. The FCC's National Broadband Plan states that no matter where you live or how much money you make, every American, every school, every library, every business, every health care institution and every public safety facility needs to have access to affordable broadband services. Technological communications ability has become the foundation of the American economy and the platform required for innovation and opportunity. It is a tool every child needs if they are to learn and compete in the global economy. Access to affordable communications infrastructure is required to ensure that businesses, large and small, are created here, move here, and stay in our community. Technology is constantly advancing, and our community infrastructure supporting technology uses and tools needs to advance at a pace that is slightly ahead so that we are always in a position to leverage advanced technologies. We are a community of technology innovators, and our local infrastructure needs to enable innovation at the home and business locations.

Additionally, Congress has concluded that broadband access has resulted in advancing "consumer welfare, civic participation, public safety and homeland security, community development, health care delivery, energy independence and efficiency, education, worker training, private sector investment, entrepreneurial activity, job creation and economic growth, and other national purposes. There are portions of Loudoun County, particularly western Loudoun, where our citizens and public safety workers are unable to obtain communications access even by radio. Therefore, it is vital that continued progress in deployment and adoption of broadband technology and other communications infrastructure be expanded in Loudoun County to increase safety and quality of life, as well as to keep Loudoun County competitive and to continue to create business and job growth.

Supervisors Clarke and Higgins are asking that the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution supporting expanded broadband access and communications infrastructure (attached). They are also asking the Board to expand the Cable and Open Video Systems Commission's purpose to include providing advice and recommendations to the Board regarding expanded broadband and other communications infrastructure. This would entail amending the Commission's bylaws (attached) as well as changing the name of the Commission to reflect their amended purpose.

To facilitate these proposed changes, Supervisors Clarke and Higgins ask that the Board change the name of the Cable and Open Video Systems Commission to "Communications Commission" and that the Commission be directed to amend their bylaws to reflect their expanded role and bring back the amended bylaws to the Board for approval.

ISSUES: None

FISCAL IMPACT: None at this time

ALTERNATIVES: N/A

DRAFT MOTION(S): I move that the Board of Supervisors pass this Resolution of Support for Expanded Broadband Access and Other Communications Infrastructure for the Citizens, Businesses, and Workforce of Loudoun County.

I further move that the Board of Supervisors expand the purpose of the Cable and Open Video Systems Commission to include providing advice and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding "expanded communications access".

I further move that the Board of Supervisors change the name of the Cable and Open Video Systems Commission to "Communications Commission" and that staff work with the Commission to amend their bylaws to reflect the Communications Commission's expanded role and come back to the Board of Supervisors for approval of the amended bylaws.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Resolution of Support for Expanded Broadband Access and Other Communications Infrastructure for the Citizens, Businesses, and Workforce of Loudoun County
- 2) Cable and Open Video Systems Commission By-Laws



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF LOUDOUN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
*Support of Expanded Broadband
and Other Communications Infrastructure
for the Citizens, Businesses, and Workforce of
Loudoun County*

WHEREAS, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors recognizes that universal broadband and other internet connectivity is an essential element in sustaining our local economy and maintaining public safety, medical, and educational services; and

WHEREAS, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors understands that the rapidly changing world of broadband internet technology has fundamentally changed how people live by enabling them to more effectively do their jobs, positively affect their environment, enable teleworking, provide a greater variety of educational opportunities, and communicate in a more efficient way; and

WHEREAS, Loudoun County is comprised of geographically diverse areas; some that are sparsely populated that are critically underserved and suffer from the absence of essential broadband internet access; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors supports community programs and encourages private initiatives which highlight the importance of the active development and deployment of broadband Internet technologies to all of its citizens.

Scott K. York, Chairman, At-Large

Janet S. Clarke, Vice Chair, Blue Ridge District

Geary Higgins, Catoctin District

Suzanne Volpe, Algonkian District

Ken Reid, Leesburg District

Eugene Delgaudio, Sterling District

Shawn Williams, Broad Run District

Ralph Buona, Ashburn District

Matt Letourneau, Dulles District